

# FASTEST GROWING OR MOST OPENINGS?

**J**ob growth can be measured by percent change and numerical change. The fastest-growing occupations do not necessarily provide the largest number of jobs. A larger occupation with slower growth may produce more openings than a smaller occupation with faster growth.

For example, the rate of growth for paralegals is twice that of nurses. But, there are 10 times as many nursing openings as paralegal openings. Generally, it's best to concentrate on occupations with the most openings. However, often when occupations are growing rapidly there may be short-term shortages of workers. BUT, further research would be necessary! Don't just think that a rapidly growing occupation is a sure road to job-seeking success.

## SUPPLY-SIDE ECONOMICS

Just because an occupation is in this publication, doesn't mean jobs will be easy to find! Here we cover only the "demand" for occupations. The other side of the equation is the supply of workers wanting to work in that occupation. An occupation may create hundreds of new openings every year. But, if thousands of workers are qualified for those positions, lots of workers won't find work in that field.

In other words, look at the **supply** of labor for a particular occupation—not just the demand. We do have some figures on the number of people completing certain programs at public institutions. However, that excludes many, many qualified workers.

So, do your homework. Check with people already employed in the occupation and employers who hire that occupation to determine whether there is an over-or under-supply of workers.



For more information:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/wi/> —Utah Labor Market / Economic Information

<http://www.bls.gov/> —Bureau of Labor Statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/home.htm> —Occupational Outlook Handbook

<http://jobs.utah.gov/selfservice/ejb/dwsDefault.asp> —Electronic Job Board (all Utah jobs listed with DWS)

<http://jobs.utah.gov/firmfind/pgMain.asp?theSessionID=526552701> —Searchable List of Utah Companies